

EYHA Board Meeting
Essex Rink Classroom
April 16, 2026 7:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present:
(9 for quorum)

Helen MacAndrews
Rick Villami
Joe Baird
Kim Lassy

Sean O'Connell
Tracy Liebenow
Tracy O'Connell

Brianna Yarnell
Jen Villamil
Dave Alofsin

Board Members Absent:

Frank Parisi
Chris McGinty

Corey Labor
Tonra Riehl
Mike Lorenz

Dominic Cloud
Renee Soutiere

**EYHA Community
Members:**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Sean O'Connell, President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
2. **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve [March](#) minutes, **Jennifer Villamil** motions **Rick Villamil** seconds. March Minutes approved.
3. **EYHA Member Communication:** *(The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the general public an opportunity to address the board on matters that are either not on the agenda or are slated for action. Any discussion, if any, will be limited to determining next steps.)*
 - Jen provides 25-26 season feedback from Awards Ceremony
 - Players suggest to shake hands before games instead of after
 - Love the 802 sessions
 - Add "off-ice" sessions (shooting and weight training)
 - 802 sessions - not great for goalies (give goalies a night off)
 - Shorten Awards ceremony / & re-brand "Final BUZZer Celebration"
 - Appreciations of coaches and board members
 - Concerns around equal playing time for all players / no favoritism
 - Improve evals - more transparency
4. **Previous Action Items:** *(The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Board members an opportunity to review previous action items)*

March:

 - ~~ALL: Awards ceremony~~
 - ~~Tracy O: snacks for Awards~~
 - ~~Jen V: Suggestion box for awards~~
 - ~~Helen: Reach out to people to who have expressed interest in Board Positions~~
 - ~~Helen: email association with Board candidates~~
 - ~~ALL: send Helen yearly update for Annual Meeting~~
 - ~~Helen: Will pull updates from Awards Ceremony~~
 - ~~Helen / Mike L: post Awards ceremony winners on website / socials~~
5. **New Business / Presentations:** *(The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Board members with an opportunity to discuss various issues. Any action to be taken, if any, would occur at a future meeting.)*

- **Annual Meeting - Year in review (from Awards Ceremony)**
 - Review of 25-26 season - see ADDENDUM below
 - Goals for 26-27 season
 - Field 16U T2 and 18U T2 split season teams
 - Bring back the Calcutta / Season Kick-off (October)
 - Spring Raffle
 - Board Elections (voting to commence via Google Form sent to association immediately following Annual meeting)
 - Open Appointed Positions for May
 - 8U Coordinator
 - “Travel Tournament Coordinator” - will assist VP Travel with scheduling travel tournaments
- **Goalie Fees - 12U and above will be free (including 16U/18U)**
- **All Deposits will be non-refundable**
- **Memorial Day parade - is EYHA going to participate?**
 - Rick and Brianna will be the point persons
- **Proposal: remote option for (4) summer board meetings (May, June, July, Aug)**
 - Motion to have remote meetings for May, June, July, August. Rick motions. Kim Lassy seconds. Motion passes.
- **Discussion House Ice schedule**

6. Executive Updates: *(The purpose of this agenda item is to provide board and administration representatives an opportunity to report out on the current activities of various programs, board committees, etc. There may not always be a report from each group if there have not been any changes since the last time this was on the agenda.)*

- **VSAHA rep - Rick Villamil:**
 - 16U / 18U Split season Playdowns weekend 11/21 & 11/22
 - Goalie day - end of August
- **Sean O’Connell, President:**
 - EYHA was fined by VSAHA for hosting an 8U full-ice game in the 25-26 season.
 - EYHA will pay fine and will host discussion with all 8U parents / coaches to understand ADM model for 8U

7. Next meeting date:

- **May 21, 2025 @ 7:00 pm. Location: REMOTE - Microsoft Teams**

8. Executive Session:

- **None needed**

9. Adjournment: 9:24 PM

ADDENDUM:

25-26 Season Highlights

NewBees / House:

- Program enrollment increased by 2% from previous season

- Players were offered scrimmage opportunities with other area programs to help introduce game play concepts
- Four “away games” for House
- 1 House team participated in the Yamboree

Girls -

- All 4 travel teams made it to the championship in the NorthStars Winter Classic Tournament
- 2 travel teams made it to the State Championship game with our 12U girls team winning the state title for the 3rd consecutive year!
- Fielded a girls teams at all levels

CoEd:

- We fielded 15 teams and attended 34 tournaments.
- We sent 5 teams to the Championship round - Girls 12U T3 clinched the state Championship for the 2nd year in a row!
- EYHA had 9 players who were selected to represent Vermont at the New England District Development Camps (NEDs)
- Thanks to all the parent volunteers, team parents, and of course coaches who make it happen on the ice and behind the scenes
- We’re continuing to see significant growth and retention at all ages and tiers.
- This year we fielded a successful 16U T2 Split Season team and next year we will be expanding to include an 18U T2 Split Season team.

Overall:

- Overall our player numbers continue to grow...This year we had 340 players in EYHA
 - 25-26: 340
 - 24-25: 312
 - 23-24: 275
 - 22-23: 222
- Yamboree was a huge success
- Successful raffle - raise over \$2500
- Offered multi- levels of teams from T2 - T4
- Focus on player development is bringing many families back from the Allies as well as new families from other towns
- We continue to draw accolades for allowing all players seeking more to attend skills sessions, not just upper level teams
- We continue to produce multiple goalies at each level
- Advanced Skills continues to be a huge success and it shows with the number of teams that went to the Championship Round for states as well as the number of players from EYHA represented at NED’s